A Tutorial on Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs)

Exercises

Simon Scheidegger

Department of Economics, University of Lausanne

Thursday, March 26th, 2025

Exercise Overview

ODE:

$$u''(x) + u(x) = 0, \quad x \in \left[0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$$

Boundary Conditions:

$$u(0)=0, \quad u\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)=1$$

• Analytical Solution:

$$u(x) = \sin(x)$$

Boundary Enforcement Methods

- **Soft Boundary Conditions:** Enforce the boundary conditions by adding penalty terms to the loss function.
- Hard Boundary Conditions: Enforce the boundary conditions by constructing a trial solution that automatically satisfies them.

Boundary Enforcement Methods

- Soft Boundary Conditions: Enforce the boundary conditions by adding penalty terms to the loss function.
- Hard Boundary Conditions: Enforce the boundary conditions by constructing a trial solution that automatically satisfies them.
 Example Ansatz: Define

$$u(x) = \frac{2x}{\pi} + x\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - x\right)N(x),$$

where N(x) is the neural network output. This guarantees u(0)=0 and $u(\pi/2)=1$.

Exercise Instructions

Task

- Implement a PINN to approximate the solution of the ODE.
- Part 1 (Soft Boundary): Enforce the boundary conditions by adding their residuals as penalty terms in the loss function.
- Part 2 (Hard Boundary): Modify the network's output by embedding a trial solution that satisfies the boundary conditions by design.

Files Provided

- **Skeleton Code:** A Python file with holes (for both soft and hard boundary methods).
- **Solution Code:** A complete Python implementation demonstrating both methods.

Problem Formulation

Differential Equation:

$$u''(x) + u(x) = 0$$

Domain:

$$x \in \left[0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$$

Boundary Conditions:

$$u(0)=0, \quad u\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)=1$$

Analytical Solution:

$$u(x) = \sin(x)$$

Evaluation and Comparison

- After training, evaluate the PINN on a fine grid.
- Compare the PINN prediction $u_{PINN}(x)$ with the analytical solution $u(x) = \sin(x)$.
- Provide a visual plot for both approaches (soft and hard boundary methods).

Summary

- **Objective:** Solve u''(x) + u(x) = 0 with non-trivial boundary conditions using PINNs.
- Boundary Enforcement: Implement both soft and hard boundary condition methods.
- **Files:** Use the provided Python files (one with holes and one complete solution).
- Outcome: Compare numerical results to the analytical solution sin(x).